

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1 and 4-6. Claims 2 and 3 which the Examiner indicated contained allowable subject matter have been rewritten in independent format by amending claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2 and by rewriting claim 3 in independent form as new claim 6. Accordingly, claim 2-3 have been canceled, and claim 5, which the Examiner also indicated contained allowable subject matter, has been amended to depend on claim 1, as amended. Claims 1, 4 and 5 have also been amended to improve their form and delete reference numerals. Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 1 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bontaz U.S. Patent No. 5,881,684* in view of *Kameko U.S. Patent No. 6,494,387*. The Examiner also indicated however, that claims 2, 3 and 5 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, without conceding the propriety of the rejections and to expedite prosecution of this case, Applicant has amended claim 1 to incorporate the subject matter of claim 2, has rewritten claim 3 in independent form substantially as new claim 6, has amended claim 5 to depend on claim 1, as amended, and has canceled claims 2-3. Accordingly it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 6, and dependent claims 4-5 which depend on claim 1 as amended, are now in condition for allowance.

In summary, claims 1, 4 and 5 have been amended, claims 2-3 have been canceled, and new claim 6 has been added. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,
Valery BAUER

COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, New York 11576
(516) 365-9802
FJD:djp

Allison C. Collard, Reg. No. 22,532
Frederick J. Dorchak, Reg. No. 29,298
Attorneys for Applicant

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Fax No. 571-273-8300

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent by facsimile-transmission to the Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on November 3, 2005.

Frederick J. Dorchak